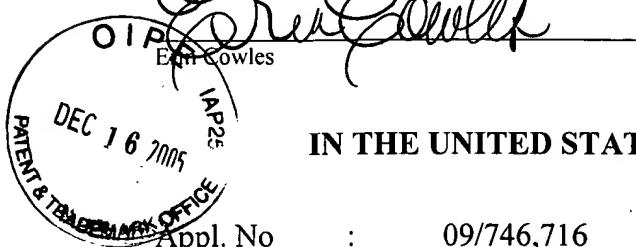


**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at (571) 273-8300 or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 14, 2005.

Ref. No.: 12439-0067  
P130-US



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/746,716 Confirmation No. 1179  
Applicant : Grube et al.  
Filed : December 22, 2000  
TC/A.U : 2839  
Examiner : Neil Abrams  
  
Docket No. : 276440-11

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the Office Action of July 15, 2005, the shortened statutory period for response to which has been extended to December 15, 2005 by the accompanying Petition For Extension Of Time, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.